

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 L-01 IO-06 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4789
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1660

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, US, UK, FR, URCA
SUBJ: RUDOLF HESS: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COSTS OF INTERNMENT

REF: BONN 10161

1. SEARCH OF USBER FILES INDICATES THAT WE HAVE
PROVIDED INFORMATION ON FINANCING OF SPANDAU; ALTHOUGH
WE CANNOT ATTEST TO FINAL FORM IN WHICH INFORMATION
WAS CONVEYED. PURSUANT TO OCT '76 REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION FROM USAREUR IN ORDER TO FACILITATE
USAREUR RESPONSE TO A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON
SPANDAU WHICH HAD BEEN APPARENTLY (MIS) ADDRESSED TO
IT, USBER PREPARED DRAFT RESPONSE ON FINANCES AT
SPANDAU. WE DO NOT HAVE COPY OF FINAL LETTER WHICH
USAREUR (OR PERHAPS DOD) SENT IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY.

2. INQUIRY WAD: "HOW MUCH MONEY IS US ARMY PAYING
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OUT OF TOTAL BEING PAID TO HOUSE SUBJECT IN SPANDAU?"
3. THE DRAFT RESPONSE INCLUDED: (A) NEITHER US
ARMY NOR USG PAYS ANY DIRECT COSTS RELATIVE TO
IMPRISONMENT OF HESS; (B) US HAS RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROVIDE MILITARY GUARDS EVERY FOUR MONTHS, AND
EMPLOYS 32 US SOLDIERS FOR GUARD DUTY EACH SUCH
MONTH; (C) SALARIES OF SUCH MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE

BORNE BY USG, BUT AS THESE PERSONNEL ARE IN BERLIN PRIMARILY AS PART OF THE US OCCUPATION FORCES IN BERLIN, THE EXPENSE OF THEIR SALARIES CAN ONLY BE REGARDED AS AN INDIRECT COST OF MAINTAINING SPANDAU; (D) FIVE (5) DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIANS (DAC) SERVE ON THE PERMANENT (I.E., YEAR AROUND) STAFF OF SPANDAU, AND THEIR SALARIES, AS WELL AS FOOD FOR THEM SERVED AT SPANDAU, ARE PAID FROM THE OCCUPATION COST BUDGET (OCB); (E) THE D-MARK COSTS OF US, BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AT SPANDAU AMOUNT TO JUST OVER DM (1,000,000) ONE-MILLION PER YEAR; (F) SOVIET COSTS FOR SALARIES AND FOOD FOR SOVIET TROOPS WERE ESTIMATED AS COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF EACH OF THE ALLIES; (G) IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE GDR PROBABLY DEFRAIDED SOVIET COSTS; AND (H) THE TOTAL COST OF RUNNING SPANDAU WAS ESTIMATED AT DM 1.25 MILLION ANNUALLY. CAVEAT: IF IT IS DECIDED TO RELEASE ANY FIGURES, USBER RECOMMENDS AMEMBASSY BONN RECHECK ANNUAL FIGURES AGAINST ITS OCB FIGURES.

4. ASIDE FROM THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN PERFORMING GUARD DUTY AT SPANDAU AND THE DAC'S, WE HAVE NOT DISCLOSED THE NUMBER AND CATEGORIES OF OTHER FOUR-POWER PERSONNEL STATIONED AT SPANDAU.

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5. IN THE SENSE THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO FOUR POWER AGREEMENT OBLIGING THE USG TO OBTAIN FOUR POWER CONCURRENCE PRIOR TO DISCLOSING INFORMATION ABOUT SPANDAU, AMEMBASSY OTTAWA WAS OFF THE MARK IN SAYING THIS INFORMATION CAN ONLY BE RELEASED ON THE AGREEMENT OF THE FOUR POWERS. PRISON REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE SILENCE ON SPANDAU MATTERS, ABSENT FOUR POWER CONCURRENCE, WERE APPROVED BY THE SPANDAU GOVERNORS AND, TECHNICALLY, ARE NOT BINDING ON THE GOVERNORS' HIGHER AUTHORITIES. NONETHELESS, THE FACT REMAINS THAT ANY STATEMENT MADE BY THE ALLIES ON SPANDAU RUN THE RISK OF INCURRING SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE IN THE DAILY OPERATION OF SPANDAU. WHILE NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMENDING ALLIED SILENCE ON SPANDAU MATTERS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE JUDICIOUS IN OUR COMMENTS.

6. TURNING TO SPECIFICS OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION REQUEST (CBC), USBER SEES LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY US IN AFFORDING CBC THE REQUESTED FIGURES ON SPANDAU COSTS. WE BELIEVE CBC REQUEST CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM ABOVE CITED CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

WHICH WAS RELATED TO AMOUNT AND OVERALL PROPORTION OF US DEFRAID EXPENSES INVOLVED. IN ADDITION, ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE CBC REQUESTED FIGURES WOULD REPRESENT ACTUAL US EXPENDITURES (I.E., THE SALARIES OF US MILITARY SERVICEMEN PERFORMING GUARD DUTY, WHICH ITSELF IS ONLY AN INDIRECT COST OF MAINTAINING SPANDAU). MOST OF THE EXPENDITURES WOULD BE THOS INCURRED BY THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH (I.E., TWO-THIRDS OR MORE OF THE OCB FOR SPANDAU) AND DEFRAID THROUGH THE OCB BY THE FRG. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY TO A BROADCASTING COMPANY, EXPECT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH, FRENCH AND THE FRG. USBER IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRG
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DOES NOT CONSIDER ITS OCB EXPENDITURES AS PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

7. IN CONCLUSION, USBER RECOMMENDS:

A. THAT IF IT IS DECIDED THAT USG REPEAT USG WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL FIGURES TO CBC, SUCH INFORMATION BE LIMITED TO ACTUAL USG EXPENDITURES OF &63,500 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1976 (FOR US MILITARY GUARDS AT SPANDAU DURING THREE MONTHS EACH YEAR), THAT CBC BE ADVISED OF THE NUMBER (32) OF US SOLDIERS WHO NORMALLY PERFORM THIS DUTY, AND THAT CBC BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS BEST DESCRIBED AS AN INDIRECT COST OF MAINTAINING SPANDAU SINCE THE SOLDIERS IN QUESTION ARE NOT SPECIALLY ASSIGNED TO BERLIN BECAUSE OF SPANDAU, BUT ARE DRAWN FROM THOSE US FORCES STATIONED IN BERLIN IN FULFILLMENT OF US OCCUPATION RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND
B. THAT USG SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DISCLOSE SPANDAU EXPENDITURES MET BY FRG THROUGH OCB UNLESS CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG AND BRITISH AND FRENCH INDICATE NO OBJECTION.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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